

WILLIAM ELWOOD

On 12 September 1635, "William Elwood and family" were entered on the passenger list of the *Unity*, preparing to sail from Weymouth to Massachusetts Bay [NGSQ 71:175].

COMMENTS: No record of William Elwood and his family has been found in New England. As none of the nine families in this passenger list has been found in New England, the ship probably never sailed on this voyage.

NATHANIEL ELY

ORIGIN: Unknown (but see *ASSOCIATIONS* below)

MIGRATION: 1634

FIRST RESIDENCE: Cambridge

REMOVES: Hartford 1635, Norwalk 1650, Springfield 1660

OCCUPATION: Innholder (on 26 September 1665, "Nathaneel Ely of Springfield being desired & put upon it to keep an ordinary or house for common entertainment in the said town, was by this Court licensed to that work, as also for selling wines & strong liquors for the year ensuing, provided he keep good rule & order in his house" [HamCCR 1:58]; on 24 September 1667, "Nathaneell Ely of Springfield being complained of by Samuell Marshfeild for selling cider to the Indians this summer, particularly that he sold 4 quarts of cider to the Indians, it being put to him the said Nath[aniel] Ely to purge himself by oath as the law direct for such misdemeanor, he refused to do it, and therefore the Court declareth that he hath broken the law forbidding the selling of any strong liquors to the Indians, and thereupon adjudgeth him to pay the penalty or fine stated by the law, viz: 40s. per pint which for 4 quarts is £16" [HamCCR 1:91]; license renewed, 29 September 1668, 28 September 1669, 27 September 1670, 26 September 1671, 24 September 1672, 30 September 1673, 24 September 1674 [HamCCR 1:99, 109, 112, 124, 132, 142, 147, 158]; on 29 September 1674, "the jury presented Nath[anie]ll Ely, the ordinary keeper of Springfield, for not keeping beer constantly in his house according to law, for which they testify his own confession, whereupon

he being called into the Court sitting in his house & examined about the case, he did acknowledge the thing ... whereupon the Court fined him 40s." [HamCCR 1:159]; on 29 December 1674, Nathaniel Ely was paid 12s. for "use of his house at the General Town Meeting in February the 3d 1673[4] 3s. 6d. & for another Town Meeting at his house February 16 last the like sum of 3s. 6d. & the Townsmen dinner August 18th 1674 5s." [Springfield Hist 1:409]).

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP: Admission to Cambridge church prior to 6 May 1635 implied by freemanship.

On 23 February 1662/3, Nathaniel Ely was one of four men placed in "the 2d seat" in the Springfield meetinghouse [Springfield Hist 1:330].

On 6 March 1670/1, "Nathanell Ely [was] examined concerning his speaking reproachfully of Mr. Glover the Reverend Teacher of the Church of Springfeild, by Symon Lobdell's testimony and by the writing of Symon Lobdell's and Mr. Glover's, of what he said before them which Nathanell Ely owned, and by Nathanell Ely's own acknowledgement, all which are on file, it appears that Nathanell Ely did most reproachfully vilify and revile Mr. Glover a faithful minister of the Gospel, and Teacher of the Church of Springfield, and declaring to him that he had broken the law which sentence such offense 5s. He the said Nathanell Ely said the law was good, and he would fall under it for he said he had broken it and he deserves worse, and engaged to pay the 5s. accordingly in to the County Treasurer forthwith and upon this his engagement I discharged him" [Pynchon Court 273-74].

FREEMAN: 6 May 1635 (fifth in a sequence of eight Cambridge men) [MBCR 1:370]. On 8 May 1663 list of Springfield freemen [Pynchon Court 375].

EDUCATION: His inventory included "books, sheets, clothing" valued at £20.

OFFICES: Hartford constable, 6 February 1639[40] [CCCR 1:43; RPCC 7].

Deputy to Connecticut General Court from Norwalk, 26 February 1656/7, 9 April 1657 [CCCR 1:288, 293]. Connecticut petit jury, 6 April 1643, 5 June 1645, 28 December 1648, 16 May 1649 (but "fined 5s. ... for not appearing seasonably to serve upon the jury"), 6 September 1649 [CCCR 1:83, 126, 172, 183; RPCC 19, 34, 57, 64, 65, 69].

Hampshire petit jury, 24 September 1661, 30 September 1662, 27 September 1664, 31 March 1668 [Pynchon Court 253, 263; HamCCR 1:7, 14, 35, 93]. Committee to undertake a feasibility study of altering the road between Springfield and Hadley, 24 September 1677 [HamCCR 1:145].

Springfield selectman, 4 February 1661/2, 22 February 1663/4, 26 February 1665/6, 11 February 1666/7, 8 February 1668/9, 12 February 1671/2, 9 February 1673/4 [Springfield Hist 1:291, 314, 357, 368, 396, 405, 2:85, 111]. Constable, 1665 (but dismissed on 16 August 1665) [Springfield Hist 2:79, 82; HamCCR 1:64]. Measurer of lands, 6 February 1665/6, 4 February 1667/8, 7 February 1670/1 [Springfield Hist 2:83, 85, 87, 110]. Sealer of weights and measures, 3 February 1673/4 [Springfield Hist 2:119; HamCCR 1:153].

Springfield committee to settle a land dispute, 5 February 1660/1, 7 February 1664/5 [Springfield Hist 1:282, 2:79]. Assessor of cattle, 12 February 1660/1 [Springfield Hist 1:283]. Committee to "examine the accounts of the selectmen that now expire," 4 February 1661/2, 26 February 1665/6, 2 February 1668/9, 3 February 1673/4 [Springfield Hist 1:291, 367, 2:85, 97, 119]. Committee to lay out a highway, 12 March 1661/2, 1 February 1665/6, 2 February 1674/5 [Springfield Hist 1:300, 348-49, 2:125]. Committee to distribute land, 8 February 1663/4, 1 February 1664/5, 6 February 1664/5, 11 April 1665, 1 February 1665/6, 11 February 1666/7 [Springfield Hist 1:310, 323, 324, 345, 358, 2:81]. Committee to "have the sole power to order matters concerning the land at Worronoco [Westfield], both for admittance of inhabitants for that place and for granting of lands there," 7 February 1664/5, 2 February 1668/9 [Springfield Hist 2:80, 100, 103]. Committee to study the corn mill, 6 February 1665/6 [Springfield Hist 1:352]. Committee on town highways, 12 February 1668/9, 7 February 1670/1 [Springfield Hist 2:68, 110]. Committee on poor relief, 26 February 1665/6 [Springfield Hist 2:86]. Committee on a new meeting house, 15 April 1674 [Springfield Hist 2:121].

On 17 January 1665/6, "Nathaneell Ely is appointed to take care for the finishing of the said house [of correction] with all possible speed ... and Capt. Pynchon & Elizur Holyoke are ordered to assist Goodman Ely with counsel about the said work as need shall require" [HamCCR 1:67; see also Pynchon Papers 2:327-29]. On 11 February 1666/7, the "selectmen considering the ill-convenient passage out of the meeting house for want of a door for such as sit in the gallery, they do therefore appoint Nathaniell Ely to see that a door be made ... as also Nathaniell Ely is to see to the new hanging of the bell" [Springfield Hist 1:357-58]. In a town account of 1667, Nathaniel Ely was owed 6d. for "nails & a hasp" [Springfield Hist 1:361]. In an account of expenses for the new meeting house, there was paid to "Goodman Ely" £18 16s. 7d. for "carting the timber" and 8s. 6d. for "carrying down John Gilbert & two horses" [Springfield Hist 2:157, 159].

On 26 September 1665, "Nathaneel Ely, upon his desire, is by this Court released from training in the town so long as he continues to keep the ordinary" [HamCCR 1:58].

ESTATE: On 4 August 1634, "Nath[aniel] Elly" was granted six acres in the West End in Cambridge [CaTR 9]. In the Cambridge land inventory on 4 June 1635, "Nathaniell Elly" held one parcel "in West End one house and about six acres" [CaBOP 12]. On 20 August 1635, "Nath[aniel] Elly" was granted a proportional share of one in the undivided meadow ground [CaTR 13].

In the Hartford land inventory in February 1639/[40], "Natth[aniel] Ely" held fourteen parcels, the first ten of which had been granted to him by the town: "one parcel on which his dwelling house now standeth with yards or gardens therein being containing by estimation two acres"; "one parcel lying in the Little Meadow containing by estimation one rood five perches"; "one parcel called the Brickell containing by estimation six acres two roods"; "one parcel in the Little Oxpasture containing by estimation five acres" (annotated "sold to Tho[mas] Spencer"; see also HaBOP 154); "one parcel lying in the Cowpasture containing by estimation two acres two roods"; "one parcel lying in the North Meadow containing by estimation three roods (more or less) and a way to it at all time through Will[ja]m Pantrye's land"; "one parcel more lying in the North Meadow of meadow & swamp containing by estimation six acres one rood & thirty perches (more or less) viz: four acres four perches of meadow & two acres one rood thirty-six perches of swamp"; "one parcel lying on the East side of the Great River containing by estimation one acre & eight perches" (sold to Thomas Stanley [HaBOP 137]); "one parcel more on the East side of the Great River containing by estimation two acres"; "one parcel lying in the Neck of Land containing by estimation two acres & fourteen perches more or less part whereof he received of John Clerk for a parcel of land belonging to the said Nath[aniel] Ely lying also in the Neck of Land"; "one parcel lying in the Soldiers' Field which he bought of Mr. John Cullett containing by estimation three roods" (sold in 1650 or shortly thereafter to William Wadsworth [HaBOP 188]); "one parcel which he bought of William Butteler & was the houselot of Stephen Hartt containing by estimation two acres & two roods"; "one parcel lying in the West Field which he bought of Thomas Spenser containing by estimation one acre & two roods"; and "one parcel lying for a Cowpasture containing by estimation thirty & two acres two roods & thirty perches" [HaBOP 150-2].

An undated inventory of the land granted to Nathaniel Ely by the town of Norwalk contains thirteen parcels: "one homelot containing four acres, two roods"; "one parcel of upland lying in the planting field called the neck, in the division of Stone Hill containing six acres"; "one parcel of upland lying in the planting field called the neck, and that in the division called Soakatucke Plain ... containing six acres"; "one parcel of upland lying in the planting field called the neck, in the division of Pine Hill so-called containing four acres, two roods"; "one parcel of upland lying in the planting field called the neck, and that in the Coase division, containing four acres, two roods"; "one parcel of upland lying in the planting field called the neck, and that in Fruitful Springs division, containing six acres, two roods"; "a parcel of meadow called best division lying in the planting field called the neck, containing one acre"; "one parcel of meadow called second division lying in the planting field called the neck containing one acre"; "one parcel of meadow called best division lying in the meadow field of the other side of the river containing two acres three roods"; "one parcel of meadow called second division lying in the meadow field of the other side of the river containing two acres"; "one parcel of outmeadow so-called lying beyond the great meadows field toward the sea containing four acres"; "one parcel of outmeadow so-called containing three roods, twenty poles"; and "one parcel of outmeadow so-called containing one acre, one rood" [Norwalk LR 1:9-10].

On 8 January 1680[1?], Thomas Betts Sr. and Christopher Comstock divided between themselves "that parcel of salt marsh meadow called by the name of best division lying in the planting field called the neck purchased of Nath[anie]l Eli" and "that parcel of salt marsh meadow purchased of Nath[anie]l Eli lying in the planting field called the neck by the name of second division" [Norwalk LR 1:187].

Granted to "Nathaneell Ely 10 acres of meadow lying on fresh water brook [in Springfield] if so much be there still undisposed of" [Springfield Hist 1:286]. Granted to "Nathaneell Ely a piece of upland lying by Chickuppe River Side ... twenty acres is here granted the said Nath[aniel] Ely," 8 February 1663/4 [Springfield Hist 1:313]. Granted to "Nathaneell Ely five acres of upland at Skipmuck," June 1664 [Springfield Hist 1:317]. Granted thirty acres, which was "resigned into the town's hands January 67," December 1664 [Springfield Hist 1:320]. With three other men, granted "the land at the end of their lots over the meadow ... for 20 rod long from the rear of their lots ... in full satisfaction for the land taken for said highway," 12 February 1668/9 [Springfield Hist 1:374].

On 2 April 1667, John Pynchon rented to Nathaniel Ely "the housing & land I have now bought of Sam[uel] Marshfeild," with an option to purchase at a later date, but on 15 March 1669[/70?] the agreement was voided [Pynchon Papers 2:293].

On 24 February 1668[/9?], "Nathaneell Ely of Springfield" sold to Samuel Bliss of Springfield "a certain parcel of meadow land containing three acres more or less lying and being in Springfield aforesaid, that is to say in the West Meadow which lyeth before the street of the town"; signed by Nathaniel Ely, and Martha Ely made her mark [HamLR H:160-61].

On 29 March 1676, Samuel Day presented the "inventory of the estate of his father Nath[anie]ll Day deceased who died intestate," taken 18 January 1675[/6], totalling £252 2s. 7d., of which £95 10s. was "cattle & land"; most of the total consisted of debts due to the deceased, but there was also "a negro man" valued at £15 [HamCCR 1:176].

On 25 September 1683, whereas "the widow Martha Ely put into this Court a petition that she may have the right of dowry to some lands sold by her husband Nath[anie]ll Ely deceased to George Colton, this Court doth advise the parties to agree between themselves that the widow may have her right of dowry to such lands, not only as to the time to come but also as to the time past & Deacon Jonathan Burt, Deacon Benjamin Parsons & Japhet Chapin to be a committee to consider & to make return thereof to the next County Court and the said committee they are to take notice what quantity of land the said George Colton doth acknowledge in Court that he bought of said Nath[anie]ll Ely & that is 17 acres more than which he acknowledges not bought by him by said Nath[anie]ll Ely" [HamCCR 1:230]. On 25 March 1684, the Court noted that "at the last Court at Springfield in September, a committee was chosen & appointed to consider a plea of widow Ely relating to some rights of dowry of hers of lands in the possession of George Colten Senior to bring said parties to a compliance or otherwise settle or advise the parties & it appearing that said widow is since dead & so an issue of her right for future & for time past from her husband's death to her death it deemeth more fair if any can plead a right to said dowry to prosecute it in due form of law rather than that this Court should determine it, it being affirmed by said committee that other widows may claim right to the aforesaid as well as she" [HamCCR 1:233].

BIRTH: By about 1609 based on estimated date of marriage.

DEATH: Springfield 25 December 1675 [Pynchon VR 73].

MARRIAGE: By about 1634 Martha _____ (assuming she was mother of his children). She died at Springfield 23 October 1683 [Pynchon VR 75].

CHILDREN:

- i SAMUEL, b. say 1634; m. Springfield 28 October 1659 Mary Day [Pynchon VR 57], daughter of ROBERT DAY {1634, Cambridge} of Hartford [GM 2:2:300].
- ii RUTH, b. say 1641; m. Springfield 3 October 1661 Jeremiah Horton [Pynchon VR 57].

ASSOCIATIONS: Nathaniel Ely migrated with and lived near ROBERT DAY {1634, Cambridge}, and a son of Ely married a daughter of Day, so some relationship is possible [TAG 30:80-81].

COMMENTS: Savage claims incorrectly that Nathaniel Ely was in Cambridge in 1632, but no record supports this; Savage also gives an incorrect year of death for the widow of the immigrant [Savage 2:116].

On 26 June 1650, "Natha[niel] Ely and Richard Olmsted, in the behalf of themselves and other inhabitants of Hartford, desired the leave and approbation of the Court for planting of Norwaake," to which the Court gave cautious consent [CCCR 1:210].

On 19 May 1659, as part of its order settling a "parcel of land called Gold Hill" on "the Indians at Paquanack," Connecticut General Court ordered that "the committee appointed by the court to see this order put in execution are, of Norwalk, Mr. Campfield, Mr. Fitch, Richard Olmstead, Nath[anie]ll Elye, who are to bound out the lands at Gold Hill" and "to make return to the Court in October, what they do in reference to this order" [CCCR 1:336].

On 26 March 1660, "Sam[uel] Ely is admitted an inhabitant & Mr. Elizur Holyoke acknowledges himself bound in a bond of £20 to the town treasurer to secure the town from any charge which may arise to the town by the said Ely or his family. Nath[aniel] Ely is admitted an inhabitant" [Springfield Hist 1:278].

Writing from Springfield to John Winthrop Jr. on 7 May 1660, John Pynchon describes a long list of medical problems of his family members, and then states that "My wife hath had such a great desire Mr. Pell should see her [daughter] ever since Goodman Ely was here that she can hardly be satisfied till Mr. Pell sees her [daughter's] knees to hear what he thinks of it" [Pynchon Papers 1:33].

On 26 March 1667, Nathaniel Ely successfully sued Thomas Powell for debt [HamCCR 1:81], and, on 28 March 1671, he successfully sued Cornelius Williams, also for debt [HamCCR 1:124, 133].

BIBLIOGRAPHIC NOTE: In 1885 Heman Ely compiled *Records of the Descendants of Nathaniel Ely the Emigrant ...* (Cleveland 1885), which included as an introduction a letter from Joseph Lemuel Chester including a proposed English origin for this immigrant.

In 1953 Donald Lines Jacobus prepared a solid account of this immigrant and his family (prefaced, unfortunately, by the incorrect English ancestry published in 1885) [Hale, House 535-43].

In 1953 John Insley Coddington extended the work of Col. Joseph Lemuel Chester on the supposed English ancestry of Nathaniel Ely [TAG 29:206-9], but in 1954 he demonstrated that this ancestry was incorrect [TAG 30:78-81].

JOHN EMERSON

ORIGIN: Unknown

MIGRATION: 1635 on the *Abigail*

FIRST RESIDENCE: Scituate

RETURN TRIPS: Possibly returned to England permanently in 1640

OCCUPATION: Yeoman [PCR 1:48]. Planter [PCR 12:102-3].

FREEMAN: In Scituate section of 1639 Plymouth Colony list of those who had taken the oath of fidelity [PCR 8:183].

EDUCATION: John Emerson signed his full name to deeds [SciTR 1:272].

ESTATE: In Rev. John Lothrop's list of houses built in Scituate "since my coming to October 1636," number 45 is "John Emmersonn's," being built apparently toward the end of 1636 [NEHGR 10:43].

On 2 February 1636[/7?], "John Emerson of Scittuate in America, planter," sold to Nathaniel Tilden "all my lands upon the Third Cliff and marsh land thereunto adjoining ... containing by estimation five acres" [PCR 12:102]. On 10 October 1639, "John Emerson of Scittuate in America, planter," sold to Nathaniel Tilden "all my marsh land in New Harbor Marshes laid out to me and to my use by Edward Foster by the town's appointment ... being nine acres" [PCR 12:102-3; SciTR 1:272].

BIRTH: About 1615 (aged 20 in 1635 [Hotten 98]).

DEATH: In 1640 or later.

MARRIAGE: Duxbury 19 July 1638 Barbara Lothrop, daughter of Rev. JOHN LOTHROP {1634, Scituate} ("My son Emmersonn and my